management indicating the processing status of the overall shop and detailed management in units of parts, thus allowing easy and accurate order received/placed management. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 72, line 15, and ending at page 72, line 22, as follows:

-- The parts management according to the present invention is also achieved by supplying a storage medium, which records a program code of a software program that can implement the functions of the above-mentioned display modes to a system apparatus, and reading out and executing the program code stored in the storage medium by a computer (or a CPU or MPU (microprocessing unit)) of the system or apparatus. --.

REMARKS

The Specification for the above-identified application has been amended to correct grammatical and typographical errors. A marked-up version of the Specification is submitted as "Attachment A - Marked-Up Version of Specification." Entry of the amendments to the Specification is respectfully requested.

Please note that an Information Disclosure Statement, PTO 1449 forms and references were mailed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 19, 2001. We note that a search of PAIR today confirms an entry of "Prior Art Citation Filed"

on April 25, 2001. However, we note that no mention was made in the Office Action of July 30, 2001 noting receipt of this Statement, forms and references or incorporating a PTO 1449 form showing that such references were considered. We have enclosed copies of the filed documents (excluding the references) for your convenience and would appreciate you indicating on the enclosed PTO 1449 form that you have considered the cited references that were previously filed.

Independent claims 60, 66, 67, 69, 70, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 89, 90, and 96 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,914,878 in view of Gutterman et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,297,031. The rejections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

It is submitted that neither the Yamamoto et al. reference nor the Gutterman et al. reference, either alone or in alleged combination, discloses or suggests the parts management systems, methods, and storage mediums, as claimed in the independent claims. Particularly, the present claimed invention is directed to enabling management by means of a form by which processing status of orders received and/or orders placed is understood easily and immediately as sight information by displaying a management item by a combination of an icon and data. With respect to independent claims 60, 66, 67 and 69, the icon corresponds to the management item and data indicates a status of the management item.

Particularly with respect to independent claim 60, display control means determines whether data input by communication means is of an order received and placed, an order placed, or an order received, and controls display of an icon

corresponding to a management item in accordance with a determination result and data indicating a status of the management item represented by the icon.

A plurality of management items are displayed for parts management. Detailed information on selected management items can be then displayed in the form of a graph (e.g., independent claims 70, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81 and 82) and/or table (e.g., independent claims 82, 83, 89, 90 and 96).

With respect to the present invention, parts management has three modes: (i) orders received; (ii) orders placed; and (iii) orders received and placed - a peculiar management mode contains different management information according to each standpoint of the request. In the present invention, the content of the parts management is then judged whether: (a) orders received and placed; or (b) orders received; or (c) orders placed. Management information corresponding to these modes (a), (b) and (c) is then enabled to be indicated by selectively displaying the result. Display control of a combination of an icon and data in the form of a graph and/or table is accordingly performed. It is submitted that neither reference, either alone or in alleged combination, discloses or suggests such display control, as claimed in the present invention.

Rather the Yamamoto et al. reference merely discloses a raw material ordering system where a status of an order received and a status of an order placed are classified and managed in a database with such information being managed only in the form of data held in the system and not as visualized information. Accordingly and as acknowledged by the Examiner, such does not disclose or suggest the claimed display control means, particularly, displaying a management

item by a combination of an icon and data and displaying in the form of a graph or table concerning the detailed information on selected management items as in the present invention.

The Examiner, however, states that it would have been obvious to "modify Yamamoto et al's inventive concept to include Gutterman et al's system comprising display control means for controlling display on display means, which determining the status of the order, of a combination of an icon corresponding to a management item and data indicating a status of the management item represented by the icon."

The Gutterman et al. reference, however, discloses a method and apparatus for order management by market brokers wherein order icons are created by suitable icon-objects and are displayed in deck pane 135 in positions that are determined by the type and prices of the orders (see col. 12, ls. 27-29). For example, in Fig. 2b, seven orders are shown in the deck pane 135 - icons 139-1 and 139-7 which represent orders status, respectively. The Gutterman et al. reference also discloses other examples, such as the shapes and colors of the icons, related to the order icons (see col. 14, ls. 52-64).

The Gutterman et al. reference does not disclose or suggest display control for determining display modes as in the present claimed invention. More particularly, the reference does not disclose determining whether or not inputted data corresponds to the modes of: (a) orders received and placed; or (b) orders received; or (c) order placed. Nor does the reference disclose controlling display of a combination of an icon and data in accordance with the determination result or displaying the inputted data as a graph and/or table. Rather the reference discloses display modes - buy orders (order placed) being represented in the left hand side in the deck pane, and sell orders (orders

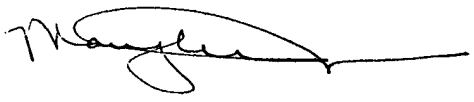
received) being represented in the right hand side in the deck pane with both representations including indications of the quantities of the orders and with the relative display positions being fixed. In other words, the deck pane 135 itself does not change whatever orders the broker workstation receives but rather merely displays received data on the deck pane. Such clearly does not disclose or suggest "display control" and "determination of a display mode," as claimed in the present claimed invention.

Accordingly, neither the Yamamoto et al. reference nor the Gutterman et al. reference discloses or suggests the systems, methods and storage mediums, as claimed in the present invention. Nor even if the references were combinable as suggested would such alleged combination disclose or suggest such content. The independent claims are therefore submitted as being patentable. Based upon the patentability of the independent claims, the dependent claims are also submitted as being patentable since they differ in scope from the parent independent claims.

If the Examiner believes that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application, a request is made that the Examiner telephone applicants' counsel at (212) 682-9640.

Dated: October 10, 2001

Respectfully submitted,



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ATTACHMENT A – MARKED-UP VERSION OF SPECIFICATION

This is an attachment showing the marked-up version of the Specification.

In the Specification

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 3, line 23, and ending at page 4, line 8, as follows:

-- 5. A [Conventional] conventional parts management information system provides a uniform data display based on a specific condition, and must use a plurality of applications to confirm the total status and detailed status by search in order to perform receipt/placement processing of shops. In such a case, a search must be made while confirming integrity of data, and the works required for parts management become troublesome. As the shop becomes larger and the number of orders to be processed become huge, it is difficult to relate the overall processing status in detailed information by a conventional uniform display. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 15, line 21, and ending at page 16, line 3, as follows:

-- According to a preferred aspect of the present invention, the second display control means for displaying the order received/placed information of the selected item in the table format displays order received/placed information associated with one or all items selected from the managed items displayed by the first display control means, and inhibits more than one item from being individually selected from the managed [item] items. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 17, line 1, and ending at page 17, line 9, as follows:

-- According to a preferred aspect of the present invention, the second display control step of displaying the order received/placed information of the selected item in the table format includes the step of displaying order received/placed information associated with one or all items selected from the managed items displayed in the first display control step, and inhibiting more than one [item] items from being individually selected from the managed items. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 20, line 21, and ending at page 20, line 22, as follows:

-- Fig. 7 shows a display of an example of parts management in a spreadsheet format; --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 24, line 9, and ending at page 24, line 13, as follows:

-- Fig. 3 shows the relationship between the shops, clients, and server in a factory. Note that shops indicate work units, with several work units [make] making a production line in the factory. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 25, line 1, and ending at page 25, line 10, as follows:

-- These processing areas (320, 330, 340, and 350) independently process parts management for the corresponding shops (301a, 301b, 301c, and 301d). Databases (360, 370, 380, and 390) [corresponding] correspond to the processing areas (320, 330, 340, and 350) with data storage areas as subdirectories in the external storage device 1308. The databases 360, 370, 380, and 390 store necessary data required for executing independent processing, and data to be referred to among the processing areas are stored in the server database 400. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 25, line 24, and ending at page 26, line 14, as follows:

-- Similarly, the electrical parts unit assembly shop 301b, which manages the electrical parts unit assembly shop, corresponds to the processing area 330 via the client 310b. The same applies to the mechanical & electrical parts assembly shop 301c (corresponding to the processing area 340), and the inspection shop 301d (corresponding to the processing area 350). The processing areas correspond to the process units of the production line, i.e., the human work divisions [corresponds] correspond to computer processing divisions. By reflecting the concept of the human work units into the system, changes such as switching of product models, changes of parts, changes of processes, addition of processes, and the like can be flexibly and quickly coped with. That is, the processing areas can be expanded by connecting them in correspondence with the manufacturing processes (work order). --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 27, line 12, and ending at page 28, line 1, as follows:

-- The parts management done in the processing areas of the server includes plan management for managing ordered parts, the number of which has been determined by the order received or order placed, but the detailed specifications of which are not determined yet; order determination management for ordered parts, the final specifications of which have been determined; delay management for checking a delay in scheduling from the designated delivery date; acceptance management for managing ordered parts that have been accepted; and the like, as shown in Fig. 29. These management divisions serve as a [mean] means to manage items of the shop. Note that the managed items listed above do not restrict the contents of the present invention but are examples, and various changes may be made in correspondence with various aspects of parts management. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 33, line 15, and ending at page 34, line 7, as follows:

-- An icon 101 corresponds to a display for management of orders received from the shop 301b, and displays the total number of orders received. The last update timing of the number of orders received is displayed in the form of year (YY), month (MM), day (DD), hour (H), minute (M), and second (S). The year, month, and day data, and hour, minute, and second data to be displayed are obtained by referring to an internal system calendar and system clock of the OS 1302 of the

computer 1301. The data display juxtaposed to the icon 101 indicates that the number of [order] orders received is 159.

An icon 117 corresponds to a display of management of orders placed with the shop 402, and displays the total number of orders placed. The last update timing of the number of orders is displayed in the form of year (YY), month (MM), day (DD), hour (H), minute (M), and second (S) as in the icon 101. The data display juxtaposed to the icon 117 indicates that the number of [order] orders placed is 35. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 38, line 16, and ending at page 38, line 24, as follows:

-- If the graph display is not made (S1209 – NO) or after the graph display is done (S1209), it is checked if a table format display is to be made. If the table format display is to be made (S1211-YES), the flow advances to step S1212. The processing for the table format display is executed in accordance with the flow chart shown in [Fig.] Figs. 25A, B. The contents of this processing will be explained later in the third display mode. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 42, line 18, and ending at page 43, line 7, as follows:

-- In Fig. 1 that manages both order receipt and placement, if there [is] are no orders to be placed with other shops, since items to be managed by the primary shop need only be displayed, the display screen becomes as shown in Fig. 8. The

combination display processing of the icons and the numbers of data is executed by the data display module 2604, and the processing result is displayed under the control of the display controller (1309 in Fig. 13). The display controller 1309 determines if the data to be displayed corresponds to (a) both orders received and orders placed, (b) orders received alone, or (c) orders placed alone, and controls the display screen accordingly. In the following case of orders placed alone, the same determination is done. The following case of orders placed alone is opposite to that of orders received alone. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 44, line 11, and ending at page 44, line 16, as follows:

-- Even when there [are] is a plurality of order receivers, as shown in Fig. 10, or there [are] is a plurality of order senders, as shown in Fig. 11, the system of the present invention can be applied by specifying the order receipt/placement relationship upon selecting the order receiver or sender. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 45, line 11, and ending at page 46, line 9, as follows:

-- Since the managed items of orders received and orders placed are displayed as combinations of icons and numbers of data corresponding to the individual managed items, the processing of a status of orders received and orders placed in the shops can be directly managed. More specifically, the operator can be directly informed of an abnormal condition such as a delay in scheduling, and need not

search numerical value data (model numbers, quantities, delivery dates, and the like) upon every confirmation, thus preventing confirmation errors of the operator. Furthermore, since the operator can selectively search required information, the work time required for data search can be shortened.

In addition, when only orders placed for parts are to be managed, since items for managing the order receiver are displayed as combinations of icons and numbers of data corresponding to the individual managed items, the processing of a status of the order receiver can be directly managed.

Similarly, when only orders received of parts are to be managed, since items for order received management are displayed as combinations of icons and numbers of data corresponding to the individual managed items, the processing of a status of order receipt processing can be directly managed. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 53, line 8, and ending at page 54, line 12, as follows:

-- Such initial display date of reckoning and period can be set by inputting them to an input column (not shown) on the display device 1306 from the input device 1307 such as a keyboard or the like. The reading module 2608 searches the databases of the server 305 on the basis [on the] determined by the set number of days, downloads data to the client side, and temporarily saves the data on the RAM 1304b. The correspondence between the data retrieved and downloaded by the reading module 2608, and the items selected and set by the item management module 2606 is processed by the graph display module 2609 shown in Fig. 26. This

processing is executed based on the CPU 1303 of the client computer 1301. The graph display module 2609 inputs this processing result to the display controller 1309 in Fig. 13, which displays the graph display window 180 on the display device 1306 (S2006: Fig. 20).

The graph display window 180 corresponds to a case wherein the initial display date of reckoning is 7/10, and the number of days is 5. In the graph display window 180, since 7/5 and 7/6 [on] in 1997 respectively correspond to Saturday and Sunday, they are excluded from the display window, but may be included in the display window depending on the setups of the graph display module 2609. Furthermore, this system [can] has built in a calendar effective for a given company, that is effective in units of factories, or the like, and can easily reflect holidays set in such calendar. Ordinarily, the system calendar and system clock managed by the OS 1302 of the computer 1301 (Fig. 13) are referred to. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 56, line 22, and ending at page 57, line 9, as follows:

-- Figs. 14, 17, and 18 show combination displays of the managed item and graph display windows. The managed item display window 170 in Fig. 14 displays management of both orders received and orders placed, Fig. 17 is a case of orders received alone (no orders placed), and Fig. 18 is a case of orders placed alone (no orders received). As has been described in the first display mode, there are three managed item display modes depending on the order received and order placed patterns, i.e., (a) both orders received and orders placed (Fig. 1), (b) orders received

alone (Fig. 8), and (c) orders placed alone (Fig. 9), and the relationships corresponding to these modes are similarly displayed in the graph display window. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 59, line 17, and ending at page 59, line 18, as follows:

-- A table format display will be described below with reference to the flow chart in [Fig.] Figs. 25A, B. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 60, line 17, and ending at page 61, line 7, as follows:

-- The item management module 2606 manages an item or items selected for the table format display in addition to the item management for the aforementioned graph display. The items that can be selected for the table format display are either all the items or one item. For example, if the total number of items is 13, selection across two items is not allowed. Such [inhibit] inhibiting processing is used in accordance with the actual operation form of the shop to prevent an identical ordered article from being simultaneously registered and displayed across a plurality of managed items. However, when one item is initially selected in the table format display window 210, an item (icon) before or after the selected item may be required to be referred to later. In such a case, an individual item may be designated upon next selection. Such additional request is processed by an additional selection module 2616. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 69, line 6, and ending at page 69, line 11, as follows:

-- The data line-up order of the table format display window 210 corresponds to the order items [are] selected in case of Fig. 22, but the items may be shortened (to change the line-up order). Since sorting has already been described above, a description thereof will be omitted. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 71, line 20, and ending at page 72, line 1, as follows:

-- Management that manages the overall status by combinations of icons (managed items) and numbers of data, and [displaying] displays the detailed information of the selected item in the table format, can easily determine the correspondence between management indicating the processing status of the overall shop and detailed management in units of parts, thus allowing easy and accurate order received/placed management. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 72, line 15, and ending at page 72, line 22, as follows:

-- The parts management according to the present invention [are] is also achieved by supplying a storage medium, which records a program code of a software program that can implement the functions of the above-mentioned display modes to a system apparatus, and reading out and executing the program code

stored in the storage medium by a computer (or a CPU or MPU (microprocessing unit)) of the system or apparatus. --.